Omnibus Export Promotion Scheme

3579. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is launching an Omnibus Export Promotion Scheme for the forthcoming modifications to the new Foreign Trade Policy to be unveiled on April 7;

(b) if so, whether this scheme was designated to neutralize the incidence of duty on the inputs used in export product;

(c) whether Government has obtained requisite inputs from the National Council of Applied Economic Research and Rajiv Gandhi Foundation Economic Law Practice;

(d) if so, by what time this scheme is likely to be introduced; and

(e) to what extent it will be beneficial?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Government has not announced any Omnibus Export Promotion Scheme in the Annual Supplement to the Foreign Trade Policy announced on 8th April, 2005. However, Government proposes to replace the DEPB Scheme with a new Scheme which will neutralize the incidence of unremitted levies and taxes.

(c) to (e)The draft report has been submitted by National Council of Applied Economic Research, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation & Law Practice. Discussions are being held with the related departments on the draft report.

Separate board for Chillies

3580. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to create a separate board like spices board for Chillies to enhance export opportunities;

(b) whether it is a fact that the present Spices Board is largely concentrating on Kerala-centric spices export and development;

(c) what steps will be taken to ensure that national interests are more widely served by creating a separate board for the export and nurturing of Chillies;

(d) the details of steps proposed to attend to the problem of finding adequate export markets for chillies grown in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the steps proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No such proposal is under consideration of this Department.

(b) No, Sir. Export promotion efforts to the Spices Board are broadly based on export potential of all spices falling within the Schedule of the Spices Board Act, 1986, irrespective of the States, they come from. Spices Board implements Plan Schemes for boosting development and export of all spices under which exporters from over the country can avail support and assistance.

(c) The development and export of chillies is well taken care of by the existing institutions, as is evident by the consistent increase in the export, both in quantity and value, of chillies. As such, constitution of a separate Chilli Board is not likely to influence the export levels of chillies.

(d) and (e) Steps taken to enhance export of chillies from Andhra Pradesh include:

- Introduction of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in chillies to reduce incidence of pesticides in chillies.

- Introduction of a pilot project for solar drying of chillies for reducing aflatoxin.

- Encouraging exporters to source chillies produced under IPM by paying a premium to the growers.

Other promotional activities of the Spices Board, which are available to all spice exporters, including those from Andhra Pradesh, include:support for packaging development; reimbursement of courier charges for sending business samples as part of export promotion;support for participation of exports in international fairs, assistance for business promotion tours abroad; and assistance to produce promotional brochures.